

**REMARKS**

***I. Amendment to the Claims***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, twenty four (24) claims are pending in the application. Of the pending claims, two (2) claims are independent.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate portions of the limitations of Claim 11, and all the limitations of Claim 10, which is an intervening claim.

Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate portions of limitations of Claim 15 and portions of limitations of Claim 16.

***II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

1. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schonauer (US 6,068,336). It is respectfully submitted that the rejections should not be maintained against the claims as amended.

In the Office Action, it is indicated that the features of Claim 11 would be allowable. Claim 11 used to recite that a first end portion and a second end portion of the adjusting part have a bigger width than the middle portion.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate portions of the allowable features of Claim 11. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to further recite that the first end portion has a bigger width than the middle portion. This feature is not shown in Schonauer.

The Office Action explains that element 2c of Schonauer is considered the mounting plate of the claimed invention as defined in Claim 1, while element 6 is supposed to be the adjusting part and element 6B is the mechanical energy storage means as defined in Claim 1.

However, Claim 1 as amended defines that the adjusting part of the multi-way adjustment device is "of an elongate design with a middle portion disposed between a first end portion and a second end portion." The adjusting part is "mounted on so as to be displaceable on the mounting plate by means of the middle portion." Moreover, at least the "first end portion" of the adjusting part has a "bigger width than the middle portion." The element 6 of Schonauer does not fulfill the combination of the above features which now have been introduced into Claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 as amended and its dependent claims should be found allowable over Schonauer.

2. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 14-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gabas et al (US 6,357,826). It is respectfully submitted that the rejections should not be maintained against the claims as amended.

In Claim 14 as amended, the claimed "cable pull" comprises a "wire displaceable in a sleeve." The claimed "wire" of the cable pull is "guided into the interior of the housing." The wire is "coupled through mechanical energy storage means to an inside of the housing."

The adjustment device of Fig. 7 of Gabas does not have a direct coupling between the cable pull and the mechanical energy storage means 70. Instead, the wires of the cables 60 are fixed to lower ends of respective rods of a frame 10, and the coil springs 70 acting as mechanical energy storage means are arranged between sliding blocks 18a, 18b and a lower end portion of the frame 10. They are not coupled to the cable pulls or to the wires thereof in a manner which is similar to the coupling defined in Claim 14 as amended.

More importantly, the elements 80a, 80b are not “guided into the interior of the housing” or “coupled through mechanical energy storage means to an inside of the housing” as claimed. The elements 80a, 80b are accordingly clearly different from the claimed “wire.”

Applicant agrees that the term “coupled” is defined as “linked together; connected.” Technically, the energy storage means 70 of Gabas can be said to be “coupled” to the cable pull to the extent that all the elements in a mechanical device can be seen to be “coupled” to one another, directly or indirectly. However, clearly the wires of the cables 60 of Gabas are not coupled to the inside of the housing “through” the energy storage means 70 as claimed.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 14 as amended and its dependent claims should be found allowable over Gabas.

### ***III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The Examiner has rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schonauer in view of Gabas. As discussed above, Schonauer and Gabas, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest each and every feature of Claim 1 as amended. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 3 depending from Claim 1 as amended should also be found allowable over Schonauer and Gabas.

### ***IV. Conclusion***

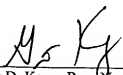
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present

application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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